

**DOE Weekly Field Memo – September 23, 2009**

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- Professional Development: 37th Annual Early Childhood Fall Conference and Retreat

**Press Release: NECAP Science Assessment Results Released**

**Audience: All**

Statewide science assessment results for Spring 2009 were released by the Vermont Department of Education this week. The results are from the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) science exams, given to Vermont public school students for the second time in grades 4, 8 and 11 in May 2009. To read the complete release, visit

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press\\_releases.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html).

For school-by-school results, visit

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_assessment/performance/necap\\_science\\_public\\_schools\\_A\\_D.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/performance/necap_science_public_schools_A_D.html).

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us) or Michael Hock at (802) 828-3115 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us)

**Request for Information: Statewide Evaluation of ARRA/Title IID Grant Programs**

**Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Technology Coordinators**

An RFI has been released this week that seeks an entity to oversee and manage a statewide evaluation of Title IID and ARRA education technology grant programs. This RFI is available to any entity with the capacity and proven track record for doing this work in a comprehensive statewide manner. If superintendents, principals and curriculum coordinators know of entities that may be interested in this work and have done quality work before in this area, please pass along the information within the attached link. This program represents a long-term commitment from the Vermont Department of Education to deliver results and indications of success on grant programs that take place around education technology. It is anticipated that results, research and experiences can be disseminated to all schools for the further understanding of the positive impacts that technology can have in the classroom. Visit [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_federal/grants.html#rfi](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_federal/grants.html#rfi).

Contact: Peter Drescher at (802) 828-5149 or [peter.drescher@state.vt.us](mailto:peter.drescher@state.vt.us)

**Public Comment: Public Draft of Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics Available for Comment**

**Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Classroom Educators**

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors' Association (NGA) have made the draft College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening and Mathematics available for public comment through October 21, 2009. The draft standards

and the survey for feedback on them is available. The next steps in the finalization of the Common Core Standards are for the validation committee to review and incorporate as appropriate the feedback received through the survey. The college-and career-readiness standards will serve as anchors for English language arts and mathematics currently under development.

For more information go to [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_curriculum.html#common](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum.html#common).  
Contact: Marty Gephart at (802) 828-1462 or [marty.gephart@state.vt.us](mailto:marty.gephart@state.vt.us) or Michael Hock at (802) 828-3115 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us)

### **Accommodations and Instructional Strategies That Can Help Students**

**Audience: Principals, Special Education Administrators, Superintendents, Educational Support Teams**

This is a listing of possible teaching accommodations that may benefit some students who may have difficulty being successful in school. This list should only be used after considerable thought about the strengths and challenges of an individual student. Users are encouraged to develop their own accommodations beyond these suggestions. For more information visit:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_ess.html#strategies](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_ess.html#strategies).

Questions contact: [essconsultants@state.vt.us](mailto:essconsultants@state.vt.us) or (802) 828-0553 or (802) 828-5829

### **Professional Development for Career and Technical Education (CTE): Integrating Academics and Improving Instruction**

**Audience: Principals, CTE Directors, CTE Teachers**

This professional development activity will focus on teaching methods to improve student motivation, acquisition and extension of academics in CTE. The activity is a continuance of the professional development topics from the 2009 Vermont CTE conference, Facing a New Future: Teaching and Learning in the Landscape of Perkins IV. This workshop is free, limited to 75 attendees, and will take place at the Capitol Plaza on October 22, 2009. The link for registration and access to the agenda is:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#max>

Contact: Andrew Hudacs, (802) 828-3892 or [andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us](mailto:andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us)

### **Vermont Professional Development Network Meetings for School Counselors**

**Audience: School Counselors, Technical Education Guidance Coordinators, Student Service Directors, Principals, Superintendents**

VPDN Meetings for School Counselors provide information and resources from the Department of Education and other partnering agencies in a supportive environment. The goal of VPDN School Counselor meetings includes creating opportunities for PreK-12 school counselors to consult, collaborate, and receive professional development on ways to improve student services. Links to register and Agenda are available at: [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#counselors\\_vpdn](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#counselors_vpdn)

Contact: Andrew Hudacs, (802) 828-3892 or [andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us](mailto:andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us)

### **FY2010 Fall Student Census Training**

**Audience: Registrars, Administrative Support, Student Information Systems Support Persons or Any School Personnel Responsible for Completing the Fall and/or Spring Student Census**

A training for data entry into the online FY2010 Fall Student Census will be held October 12, 2009 at the St. Albans Town Education Center. Completing the FY2010 Student Census is a required action. Training is not required but is highly recommended for new Fall Student Census data entry personnel. Visit

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#census>.

Contact: Glenn Bouchard at (802) 828-3777 or [glenn.bouchard@state.vt.us](mailto:glenn.bouchard@state.vt.us)

### **The Vermont Science Initiative Best Practice and Assessment for K-8**

**Audience: K-8 Principals, Superintendents, & Curriculum Coordinators**

The Vermont Science Initiative (VSI) is pleased to offer two courses for the 09-10 school year in best practice and assessment for K-8 teachers. Each course is three credits and will take place on three Friday/Saturday sessions. The first course, Issues in Science Education, will take place November 13/14, December 11/12, and January 8/9 at Johnson State College, and will focus on the methods and research supporting best practices in science teaching including effective use of inquiry, incorporation of standards based content, the connection between science and literacy, and unit development. In the spring, a second course, Educational Assessment in Science Education, will be offered with tentative course dates of: Feb 5, 6, March 5, 6, April 2, 3. Topics of validity and reliability, choosing appropriate assessments for a variety of purposes, creating valid classroom and district assessments, and using assessment data to

inform instruction will be examined. Both courses are open to all K-8 teachers and can be transferred into the new VSI Leadership Academy in Science. Visit [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#vsi\\_part\\_one](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#vsi_part_one).  
Contact: Renee Affolter at (802) 793-2383 or [vsirenee@hotmail.org](mailto:vsirenee@hotmail.org) or Pat Fitzsimmons at (802) 828-0196 or [pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us](mailto:pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us)

**Training: An Introductory Forum on School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) – Dr. George Sugai**

**Audience: Principals, Special Education Administrators, Superintendents**

The Vermont PBS State-Wide Implementation Team has organized a series of training activities for schools new to the PBS effort. These activities are designed to take a school from information gathering to implementation of the universal components of PBS. For more information visit:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#forum>.

Registration contact: Anne Dubie at (802) 656-5775 or [anne.dubie@uvm.edu](mailto:anne.dubie@uvm.edu)

DOE Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or [sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us](mailto:sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us)

**Training: Evidence-Based Interventions for Basic Reading Skills: What Really Works – Nancy Mathers, Ph.D**

**Audience: Principals, Special Education Administrators, Superintendents, Parents, All Educators**

The Vermont Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference is being held at the Killington Grand in Killington on October 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information visit:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#evidence>

Conference Questions contact: Mary Barton at (802) 875-4159 or [mbarton@ludl.tds.net](mailto:mbarton@ludl.tds.net)

DOE Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or [sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us](mailto:sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us)

**Training: Vermont Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing: Second Annual Learning Celebration – Accessibility at School & in the Community**

**Audience: Principals, Special Education Administrators, Superintendents, Anyone Working with Students with Hearing Loss**

This training will provide participants with in-depth information regarding what it takes to work successfully with students who are deaf and hard of hearing in public school settings. For more information visit:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#vcdhh>.

Conference Questions contact: Terry Keegan at (802) 254-3929 or [tkeegan@vcdhh.org](mailto:tkeegan@vcdhh.org)

DOE Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or [sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us](mailto:sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us)

**Department of Public Safety: Division of Fire Safety:**

**Poster Contest: Annual Vermont Fire Safety Calendar**

**Audience: Elementary Principals and Art Teachers of Third-grade Students**

The Annual State of Vermont Fire Safety Poster Contest and Calendar Program is now under way. Please consider having your THIRD GRADE STUDENTS participate in the 19th Annual Vermont Fire Safety Calendar Program organized by the Division of Fire Safety. Visit

<http://www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/2010calendarprogram.pdf> for more information

Contact: Dept. of Public Safety, Fire Safety Division: Robert Howe, Chief Fire Prevention Officer (800) 640-2106

DOE Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf at (802) 828-5402 or [cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us](mailto:cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us)

**From the Department for Children and Families:**

**Professional Development: 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Fall Conference and Retreat**

**Audience: Early Childhood Educators**

The Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VAEYC) presents its annual fall professional development conference from October 22nd through October 24th. The conference will be held at the Killington Grand Hotel and Conference Center. Registration is ongoing through Friday, October 16th. Conference information, brochure, and a link to online registration can be found at

<http://vaeyc.org/events/2009-fall-conference/>

Contact: James Woodard at (802) 310-2125 or [info@JamesWoodardConsulting.com](mailto:info@JamesWoodardConsulting.com)

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html). Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.